

Message Text

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13

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00

EB-07 FPC-01 INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-01

TRSE-00 FRB-01 NEA-06 ARA-06 /102 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6929

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, ENRG, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: OGBU UN SPEECH AND FMG OIL POLICY

REF: USUN 5266

1. STATEMENT BY NIGERIAN UN PERMREP OGBU IN UNGA FOURTH COMMITTEE ON MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS (REFTEL) AND UNUSUAL RAPIDITY WITH WHICH FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PUBLISHED TEXT OF HIS STATEMENT (DAY AFTER IT WAS MADE) HAVE RAISED QUESTION WHETHER FMG IN FACT CONSIDERING ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST WESTERN COUNTRIES IN ORDER FORCE CHANGE IN THEIR POLICIES VIS-A-VIS SOUTHERN AFRICA. QUESTION ARISES ESPECIALLY FROM NOT-SO-VEILED INFERENCE MADE BY OGBU THAT NIGERIA MIGHT RESORT TO MEASURES SIMILAR TO THOSE ADOPTED BY ARAB STATES IN OCTOBER 1973, AN APPROACH ALSO ADVOCATED BY TIMES EDITORIAL FOLLOWING OGBU STATEMENT.

2. CONTRARY EVIDENCE APPEARED, HOWEVER, IN SPEECH MADE BY COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARIKPO IN LONDON NOVEMBER 11.
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ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, ARIKPO SAID THAT NIGERIA WOULD

"ABSOLUTELY REFUSE" TO USE ITS OIL AS A POLITICAL WEAPON AND THAT "FOR NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THE RATE OF SUPPLY." HE ALSO NOTED THAT NIGERIA DID NOT CUT DOWN ITS RATE OF OIL PRODUCTION DURING THE OCTOBER MIDDLE EAST WAR AND HAD CONTINUED TO SELL OIL TO ITS TRADITIONAL CUSTOMERS.

3. COMMENT: APART FROM OGBU STATEMENT, EMBASSY HAS SEEN NO OTHER EVIDENCE THAT FMG SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING CHANGE IN LONG-STANDING POLICY MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED BY ARIKPO. WHILE OPTION OF USING OIL AS POLITICAL WEAPON ALWAYS AVAILABLE, FMG PRAGMATISM AND EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH OIL REVENUES ESSENTIAL MAKE SUCH DRAMATIC POLICY REVERSAL UNLIKELY. OGBU SPEECH, WHICH DELIVERED SEVERAL DAYS AFTER ARIKPO ADDRESS, APPEARS TO BE LARGELY FOR NEW YORK CONSUMPTION.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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